



Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

September 3rd, 2010



Introduction

The Cambridge Police Department is proud to announce the second release from its new BridgeStat program. This program, released on the first Friday of every month, is designed to share information with the public and combat crime in the city.

BridgeStat, similar to the CitiStat program used in New York City, is a multilayered dynamic approach to crime reduction, quality of life improvement, and personnel and resource management. Police personnel meet to devise strategies and tactics to solve problems, reduce crime, and ultimately improve quality of life in their community. Similar systems are in use in other major cities including Washington, DC, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Austin, San Francisco, and Baltimore.

Through the new BridgeStat program, the Cambridge Police Department will produce a monthly public report to the community on current police priorities in terms of crime, traffic, and disorder issues in the city.

Beginning iterations of BridgeStat includes information relating to historical trends, a breakdown of crimes by type, strategies the Cambridge Police are deploying to deal with crime patterns that have been identified, and tips for how citizens can protect themselves and help reduce crime in Cambridge. Future versions will contain more comprehensive information broken down by neighborhood and business district, as well as detailed maps showing areas that are most susceptible to certain types of crime.



A Review of Current Crime Index & Target Crimes

CURRENT CRIME REVIEW



Part I Stats: Violent Crime

Crime	January 1 st – August 22 nd			
	2009	Avg	YTD	Change
Murder	2	1	0	-100%
Rape	19	19	22	16%
Robbery	115	109	79	-28%
-Commercial Robbery	15	21	12	-43%
-Street Robbery	100	88	69	-22%
Aggravated Assault	166	164	161	-2%

- Violent crime continues to decline in Cambridge with a **11% decrease** registered for the first eight months of 2010.
- There have been **0** murders committed in Cambridge over the last fourteen months.
- There have been **0** stranger-to-stranger rapes recorded in Cambridge during the first eight months of 2010.
- There has been a significant reduction in street robberies – **22%**. Three Boston males were arrested in August in connection with a street robbery that took place on Western Ave in January.

The crime index is comprised of selected offenses used to gauge fluctuations in the overall volume and rate of crime reported to the police. Murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault are the designated offenses that make up the violent crime index.

NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, all percent changes are based on the Year To Date as compared to a 5 year weighted average. Also, all numbers should be considered preliminary at this time.



Rape

No Pattern

+16%

- The numbers for rape are preliminary in nature and represent the number of reports filed where rape has been alleged.
- Every reported rape receives extensive follow-up investigation by specially trained detectives from the Cambridge Police Sexual Assault Unit – often in conjunction with the Middlesex County District Attorney’s Office.
- There have been **NO** stranger to stranger rapes recorded in Cambridge during the first eight months of 2010. In most cases the victim had a prior acquaintance with the perpetrator or the incident was classified as domestic in nature.
 - Charges have been filed or arrests made in several of the cases reported in 2010.
 - One report was for a crime that occurred 28 years ago.
 - Many of the cases remain under active investigation; several have been determined to be unfounded.
- Since 1980, there has only been one stranger-to-stranger “street” rape pattern in Cambridge: the “Rainy Day Rapist” who preyed on victims in the Fresh Pond area on rainy days in 1981.



Rape

What can we do?

Police Response Strategy:

- When stranger to stranger rapes occur, CPD will send out alerts to affected neighborhoods via our Citizen Observer Service.
 - People can sign up to receive alerts via email and/or text message
- **The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center is available at (617) 492-8306.**
 - The Rape Crisis Center supports a 24-hour hotline, support groups, one-on-one counseling, and community education programs. All its services are free.
- **The Cambridge Police Department offers a *Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) course* for women seeking to learn how to physically protect themselves against rape and other forms of violence.**
 - The course is free and is taught by a certified R.A.D. instructor. For more information, call the Cambridge Police Department's Community Relations Department at (617) 349-6009.

Citizen Response Strategy:

- **Be aware of your surroundings when walking down the street. Walk briskly and confidently.**
- **At night, try to avoid walking alone, particularly after 9:00 p.m. Stick to main streets with as much car and foot traffic as possible.**
 - Avoid public parks, areas with excessive trees and bushes, dark streets and alleys, and other "shortcuts."
- **Keep an arm's length away from strangers.**
 - If you think someone suspicious is approaching you or following you, cross to the other side of the street and head for the nearest public place.
- **Know which stores and other public places are open along your route and try to vary your route frequently.**
- **Know the full name of each person you date, his/her occupation, and where he/she lives.**
- **Never invite a person whom you have met on the street, in a bar, or in another public place to be alone with you.**
- **If you are a victim of rape, report the crime.**
 - Counseling, shelters, and other services are available for you, and you may prevent another person from being victimized.



Part I Stats: Property Crime

January 1st – August 22th

Crime	2009	Avg	YTD	Change
Burglary	271	336	251	-25%
-Housebreaks	218	263	195	-26%
-Commercial Breaks	53	72	56	-22%
Larceny	1549	1587	1565	-1%
-Larceny from Building	208	254	227	-11%
-Larceny from MV	598	605	509	-16%
-Larceny from Person	201	208	219	+5%
-Larceny from Residence	105	118	113	-4%
-Larceny of Bicycle	184	162	253	+56%
-Shoplifting	253	240	244	+2%
Auto Theft	140	160	107	-33%

- Property crime continues to decline in Cambridge with an **8% decrease** registered for the first eight months of 2010.
- Burglary has seen a decrease in both housebreaks and commercial breaks, contributing to the overall category registering a **25% decrease**. In 2009, Cambridge recorded its lowest burglary rate in **40 years** and it continues to decline.
- Despite increases in larceny from persons and bicycles, the overall category of larceny has **decreased by 1%**.
- Auto theft has seen a significant decrease in recent years and is currently at its lowest numbers in **50 years**.

The crime index is composed of selected offenses used to gauge fluctuations in the overall volume and rate of crime reported to the police. Burglary, larceny and auto theft are the designated offenses that make up the property crime index.

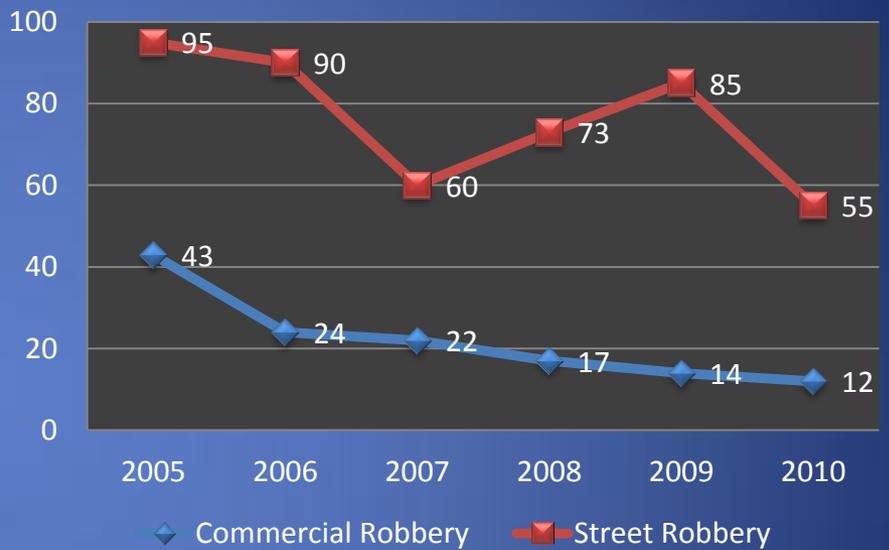


Robbery

No Pattern

-28%

- **Total Robbery** has dropped from a 5-year average of 109 incidents YTD to 79 incidents YTD in 2010 to register a **28% decrease**.
- **Commercial Robbery** is **down 43%** in 2010, from 21 YTD incidents to 12 during the same period in 2009. There has been only one incident since 7/23/10.
- **Street Robbery** has recorded a **22% drop** from the 5-year average, partially due to a trio from Boston linked to at least one Cambridge incident who have been arrested.



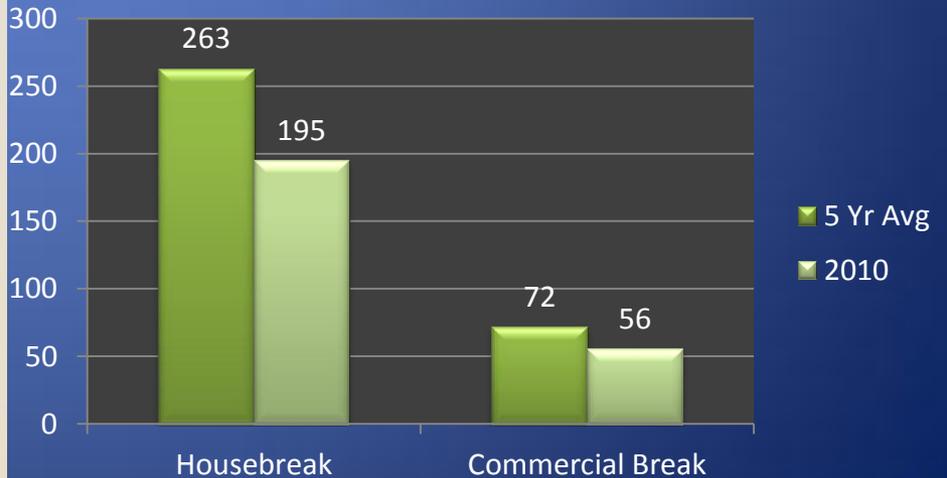
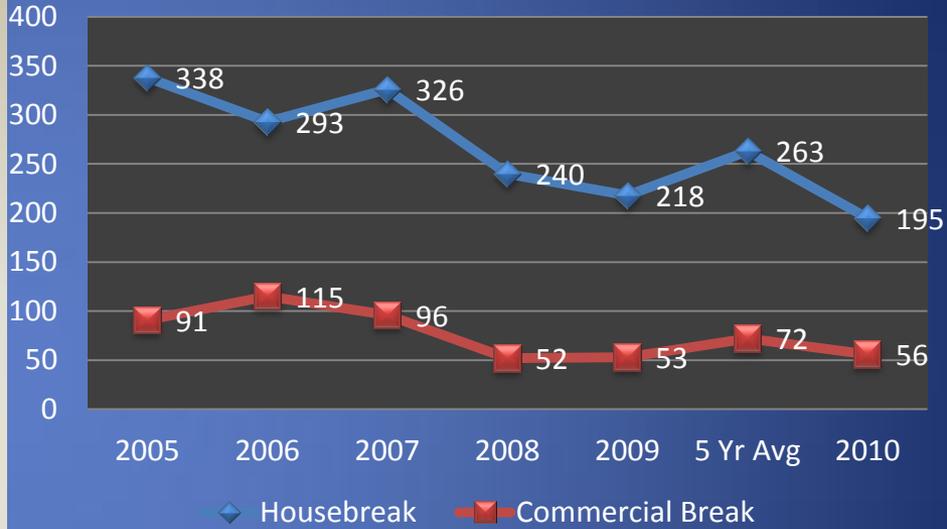


Burglary

No Patterns

-25%

- **Total Burglary**, the combination of residential and commercial burglary has **decreased 25%** compared to the 5-year average.
- **Housebreaks** have recorded a significant **decline of 26%** due to early assessment of emerging patterns and the incarceration of known offenders. There has not been a significant housebreak pattern identified in Cambridge in 2010.
- **Commercial Breaks** are a concern as we continue to monitor convenience stores as breaks with cigarettes and lottery tickets as the target is a major pattern in surrounding communities. Nothing similar has been identified in Cambridge.



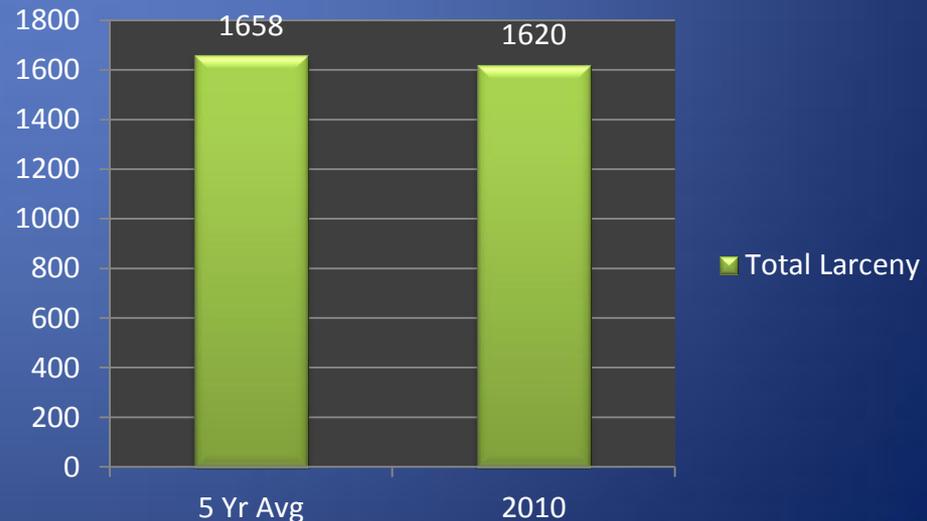


Larceny

No Patterns

-1%

- Overall, larceny in Cambridge has **decreased by 1% YTD.**
- However, there have been significant increases in:
 - Larceny from Person **+5%**
 - Larceny of Bicycles **+56%**
- Other Larceny Crimes:
 - Larceny from MV **-16%**
 - Larceny from Building **-11%**
 - Larceny from Residence **-4%**
 - Shoplifting **+2%**



Note: The larceny total on this slide also includes three categories (larceny of plate, larceny of services, and miscellaneous larcenies) that were not included on the Property Crime Stats slide. These categories tend to be much lower in number and not typically amenable to analysis.

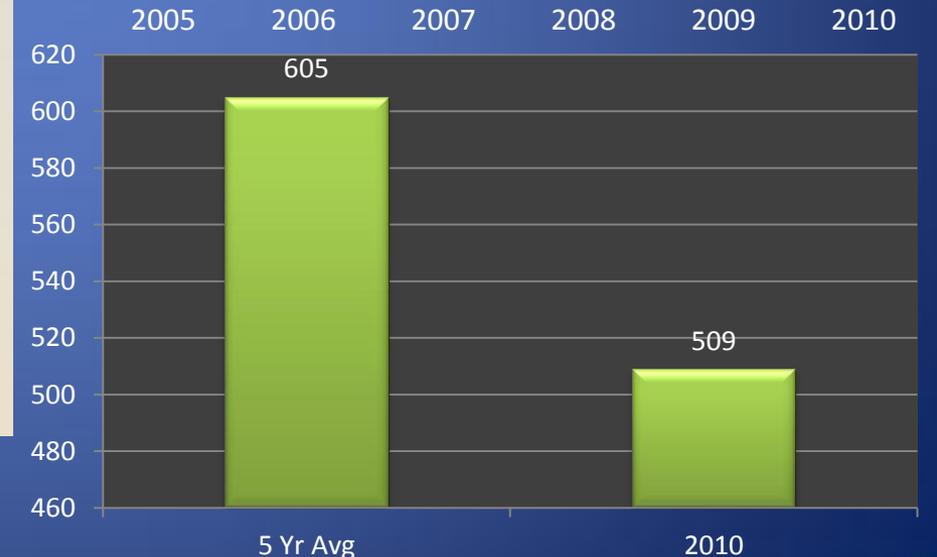
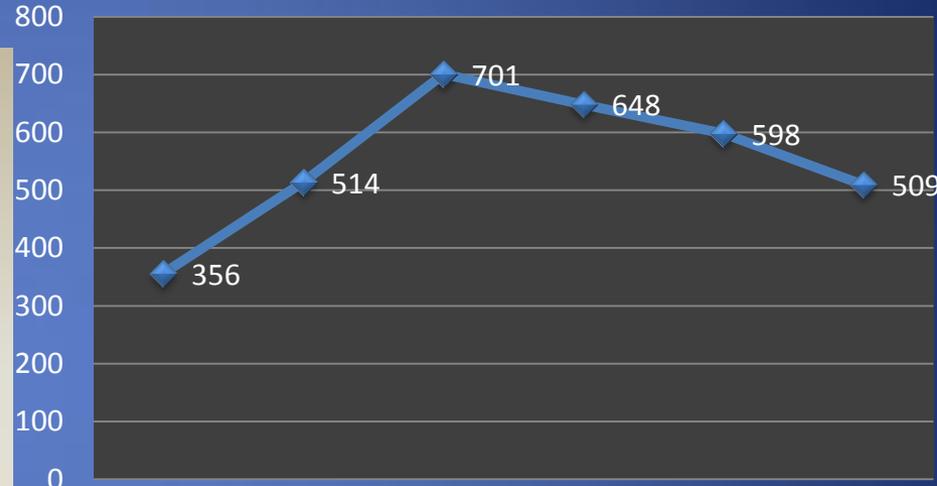


Larceny from Motor Vehicle

No Patterns

-16%

- Larceny from motor vehicles are **down 16%** year-to-date.
- No patterns have been identified at the present time.
- **Summer Hotspots:**
 - Inman/ Harrington
 - *Columbia / Windsor Area*
 - Area 4
 - *200 block of Harvard*
 - Cambridgeport
 - *South of Central Square*



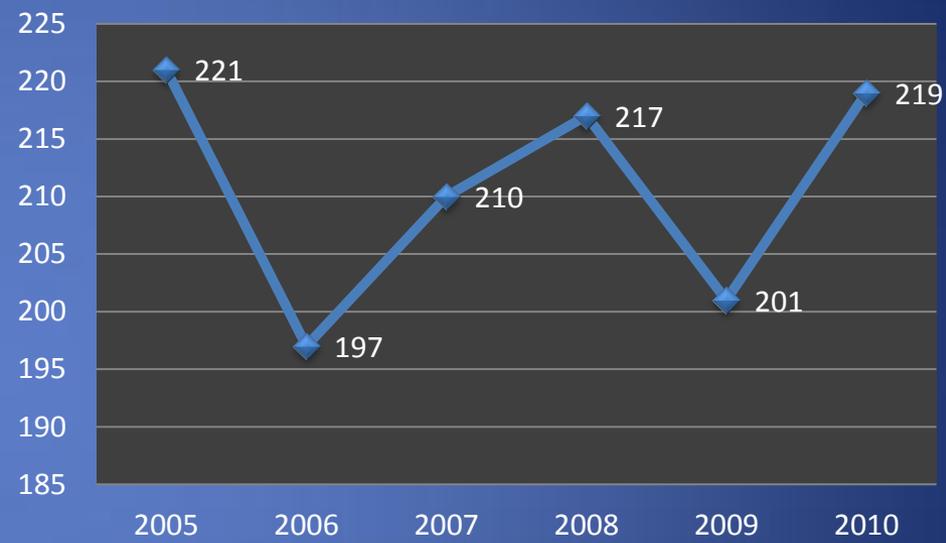


Larceny from Person

No Patterns

+5%

- Larceny from a person has been exceptionally quiet since BridgeStat directed strategies were introduced at the beginning of the summer.
- Only five incidents have been reported in Harvard Square since the end of July.
- Analysis of past school opening trends is due for release.





Larceny from Person

- BridgeStat strategy of multiple park & walks during peak time frames appears to have eradicated the problem.
 - Will continue to be monitored with new school year now in session.

Harvard Square Larceny from Person



Citywide Larceny from Person



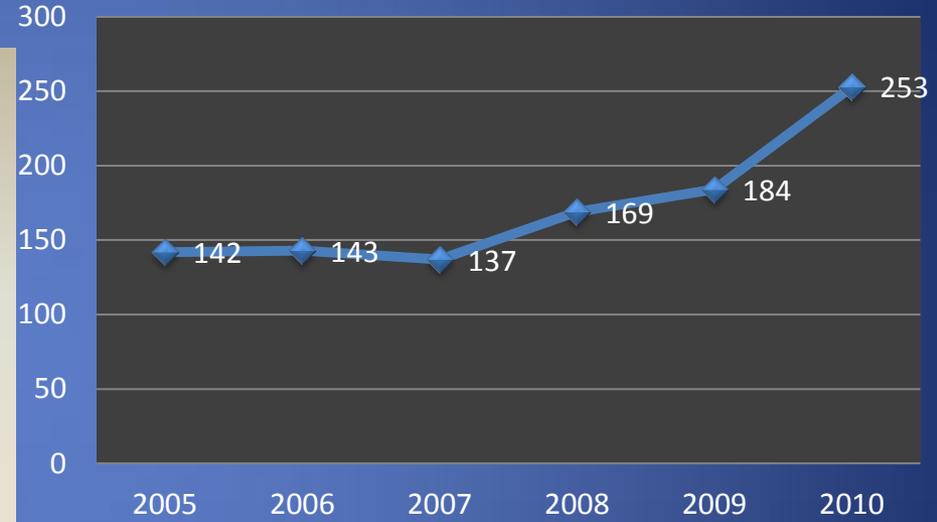


Larceny of Bicycles

No Patterns

+56%

- After three relatively flat years, Larceny of Bicycles is increasing dramatically.
- Analysis of recent offender arrests indicates increasing involvement of professional thieves.
- Clusters of thefts are occurring in Cambridgeport, South of Harvard Square, and in Sector 2.





Larceny of Bicycles:

Defining the Problem

- Reflecting a national and regional trend in urban centers, larceny from bicycles have increased by **56%** through August 25th.
- From 1995 to 2000 bicycle theft declined dramatically recording a 50% decrease. These declines were attributed to:
 - **Increased publicity given to the crime**
 - **Greater availability** of bicycle racks
 - A crime-conscious public.
- Larceny from a bicycle increased by 21% in 2008, another 3% in 2009, and 56% so far in 2010.



Larceny of Bicycles:

The Scope of the Problem

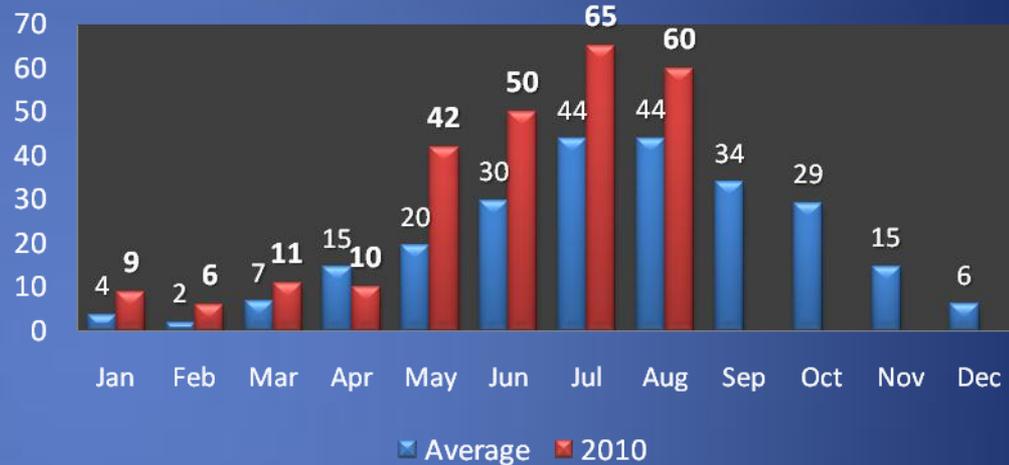
- Bike ridership in Cambridge has **increased by over 80% in the past six years.**
- The **reasons for** the theft boom are complex, including:
 - Population growth in some locations
 - More people biking
 - People buying more expensive bicycles
 - Economic downturn
- Bicycle theft remains an underreported crime. Many police departments admit that they do not keep official records of bicycle thefts.
- **Theft and vandalism of bicycles has the effect of compromising the bike as a transportation system because research shows that of the 17% of cyclists who experience bicycle theft, 24% stop cycling and 66% cycle less often.**



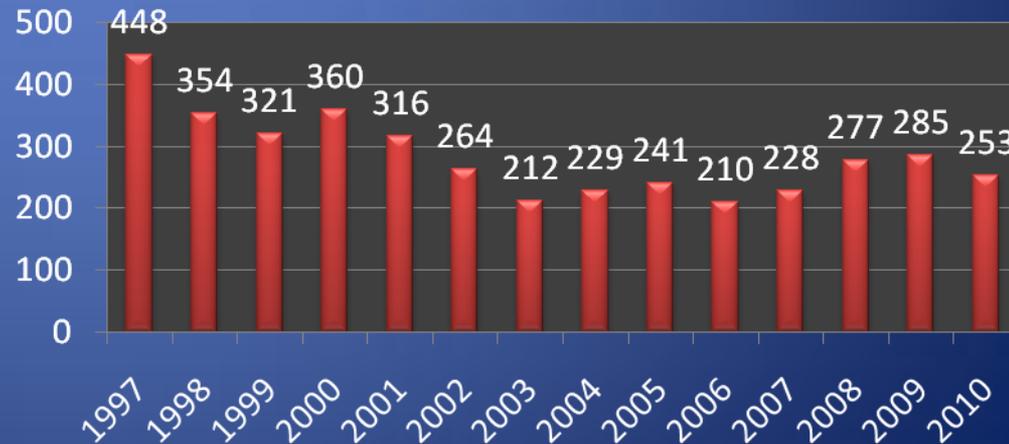
Larceny of Bicycles: Detailed Data

- This data shows that bikes thefts are a seasonal issue.
- **75-80%** of all bike thefts occur between May and the end of October.

5 Year Average by Month



Larceny of Bicycle by Year 1997 - 2010

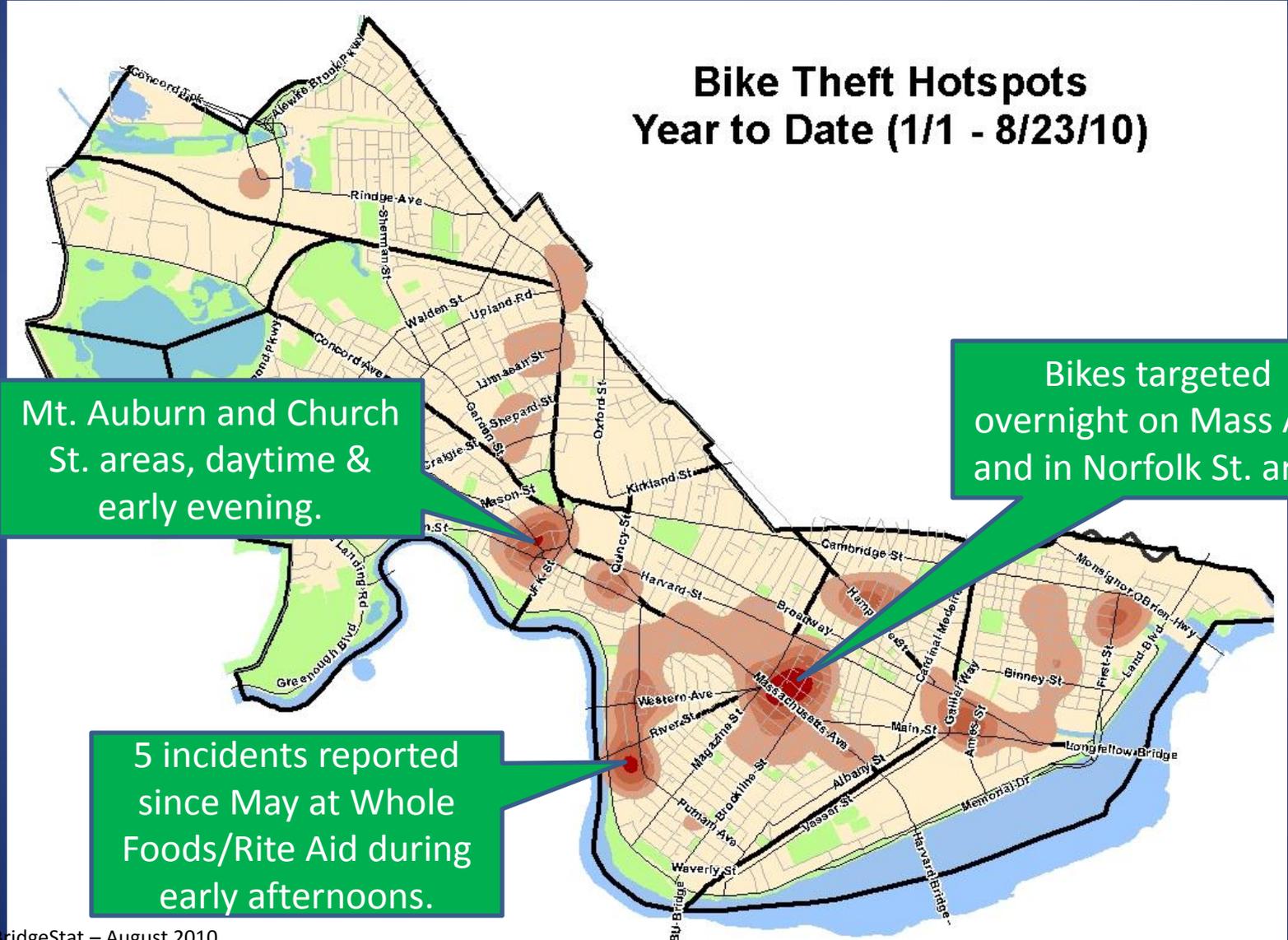




Larceny of Bicycles: *YTD Hotspots*

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

Bike Theft Hotspots Year to Date (1/1 - 8/23/10)



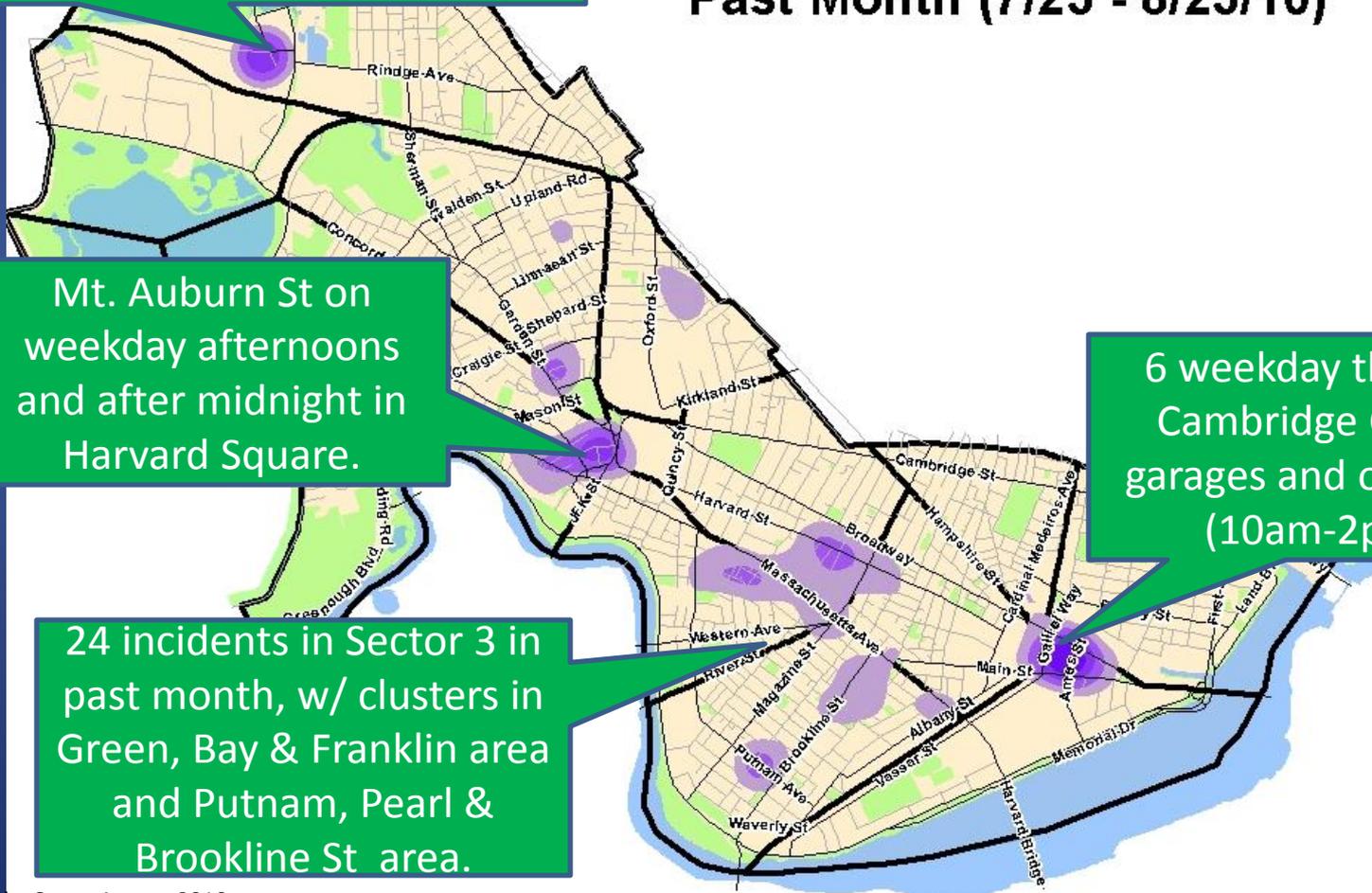


Larceny of Bicycles:

Previous Month's Hotspots

4 separate thefts since July from bike storage area in a building on Cambridgepark Dr.

Bike Theft Hotspots Past Month (7/23 - 8/23/10)



Mt. Auburn St on weekday afternoons and after midnight in Harvard Square.

6 weekday thefts in Cambridge Center garages and on street (10am-2pm).

24 incidents in Sector 3 in past month, w/ clusters in Green, Bay & Franklin area and Putnam, Pearl & Brookline St area.

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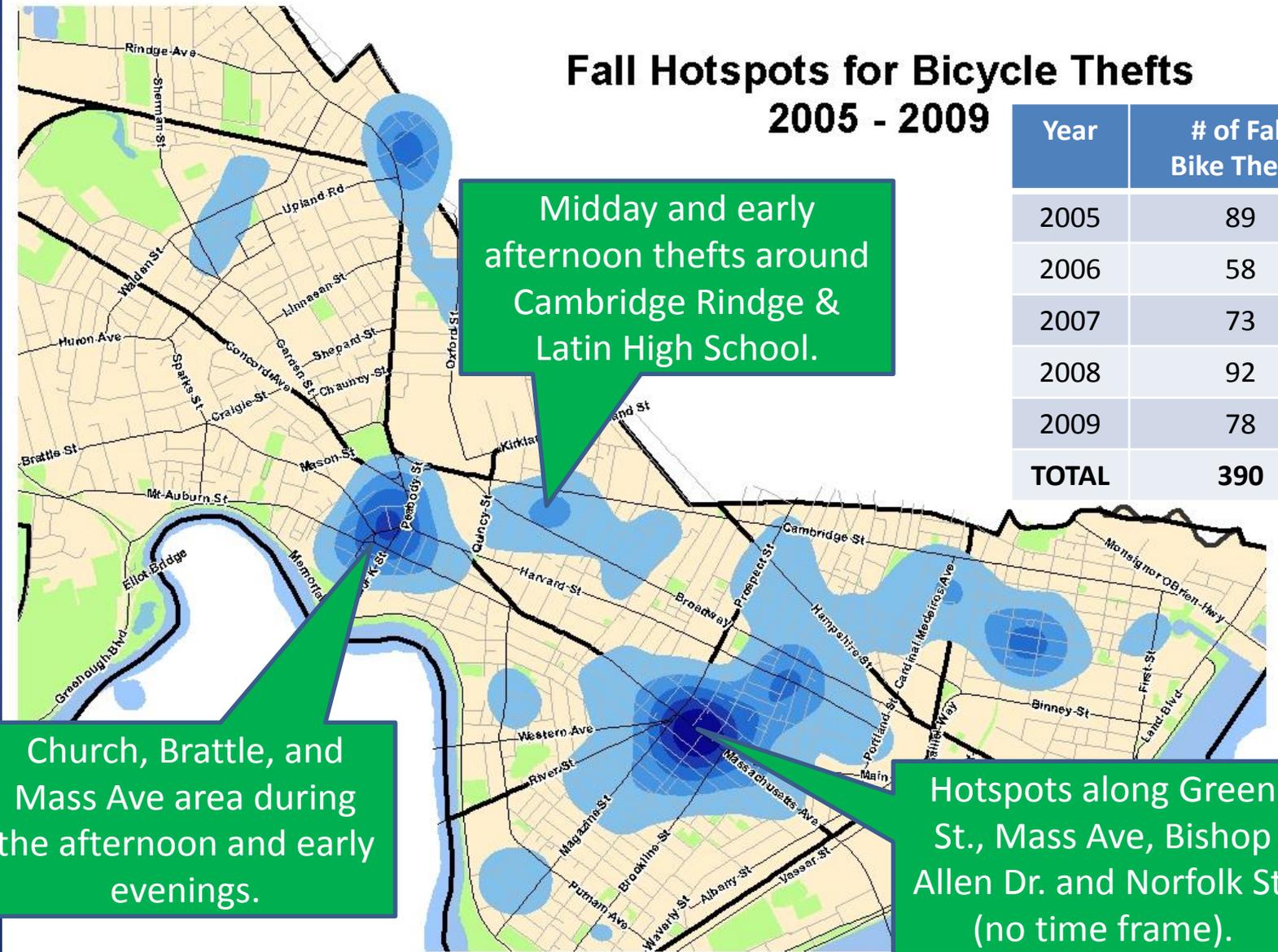
Larceny of Bicycles:

Fall Hotspots (September–November)

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Fall Hotspots for Bicycle Thefts 2005 - 2009

Year	# of Fall Bike Thefts
2005	89
2006	58
2007	73
2008	92
2009	78
TOTAL	390





Larceny of Bicycles:

Desired Outcomes

- Ultimately, police and citizens alike are working toward the same goals of:
 - Reduced theft.
 - More favorable perception of safety.
 - Reductions in repeat victimizations.
 - Increases in the number of recovered bikes.



Larceny of Bicycles:

What Can We Do?

Police Response

- Educate the public about the use of effective locks & locking practices
 - For more information about bicycle safety, proper locking, and how to register your bicycle with the police, visit <http://www.cambridgema.gov/CPD/CommRes/bicycles.cfm?pv=Yes>
- Stop bicyclists to promote bike safety
 - Remind riders to use lights when biking at night, wear helmets under the age of 16, etc.
- Reach out to neighboring departments to determine how they track stolen bikes.

Citizen Response

- Register bicycles online at the CPD website
 - For more information about bicycle safety, proper locking, and how to register your bicycle with the police, visit <http://www.cambridgema.gov/CPD/CommRes/bicycles.cfm?pv=Yes>
- Stores should be vigilant in recording serial numbers and customer information on sales.
- Universities should encourage students to register their bikes and distribute information on the correct locking procedures.



Questions?

- BridgeStat is a work in progress and will evolve over time to include more detailed information.
- We welcome all questions, comments, and suggestions.
- Please direct your feedback to:
BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org
- For more detailed analytical reports, please refer to the Publications page on our website:
http://www.cambridgema.gov/CPD/publications/crime_2010.cfm